

Message Text

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TAGS PFOR, PLOS, MCAP, GR

SUBJ: CHIEF OF HELLENIC NAVY ARAPAKIS STRESSES GREEK SEAPOWER
IN CELEBRATION OF GREEK NAVY WEEK

1. AT CEREMONY LAUNCHING GREEK NAVY WEEK, JUNE 30-JULY 7, VICE ADMIRAL ARAPAKIS EMPHASIZED THAT GREEK NAVY'S DYNAMISM PLUS DETERMINATION TO DEFEND SOVEREIGN RIGHTS SAFEGUARDS NATIONAL SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY. ARAPAKIS COMMENDED GOG'S UNDERSTANDING OF IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND ITS LARGE APPROPRIATIONS TO STRENGTHEN AND MODERNIZE ARMED FORCES. REFERRING TO GREEK SEAPOWER ARAPAKIS POINTED OUT "OUR WEALTH AND NATIONAL GLORY ARE INTERWOVEN WITH SUPERIORITY AT SEA." "...THE GRAPH SHOWING THE COURSE OF GREEK AFFAIRS IS A FUNCTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEK WAR AND MERCHANT NAVIES."

2. TURNING OF AEGEAN, ARAPAKIS COMMENTED THAT "AEGEAN IS A VITAL AREA OF GREECE, THE ARK OF HER DESTINIES. IT IS IN THE AEGEAN THAT HER COASTLINE SPREADS TO LARGE EXTENT WHICH IS IN FACT A COASTLINE OF STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE. AND IT IS IN THE AEGEAN THAT THE MAIN PART OF HER ISLAND STATE EXISTS. IT FOLLOWS THAT FOR GREECE TO MAINTAIN AND CONTROL MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS IN AEGEAN,

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AND SUPPLY AND PROTECT ITS ISLANDS AGAINST NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

WITH WHICH GREECE SHARES A COMMON BORDERLINE, GREECE SHOULD HAVE
IF NOT SUPREMACY AT LEAST EQUALITY IN NAVAL STRENGTH."

3. ATHENS PRESS FEATURED PROMINENTLY VICE ADMIRAL ARAPAKIS'
REMARKS WITH AKROPOLIS RUNNING HEADLINE "NAVY IN FULL
PROPAREDENESS, AEGEAN VITAL AREA FOR GREECE." AND
ELEFTHEROS COSMOS "GREEK NAVY DETERMINED TO DEFEND OUR
SOVEREIGN RIGHTS." NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED ARAPAKIS'
LATER MESSAGE ON INAUGURATION OF NAVY WEEK WHICH UNDERLINED
GREECE'S HISTORICAL ATTACHMENT TO SEA AND NOTED THAT GREEK
NAVY WAS "CORNERSTONE AND UNBREAKABLE SHIELD IN SYSTEM OF
DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF NATION AGAINST ANYONE WHO WOULD
WISH TO PLOT AGAINST ITS INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM."
(NOTE: GREEK NAVY WEEK IS TRADITIONAL ANNUAL OCCURRENCE
AND IS ENTIRELY DOMESTIC EVENT WITH NO INTERNATIONAL
ASPIRATIONS.)
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